



April 15, 2025

To: House Committee on Revenue

From: Deanna Palm, President and CEO, Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Re: Support for House Bill 2725 with -2 amendment

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and the businesses we represent, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 2725 with the -2 amendment.

The Strategic Investment Program (SIP) remains one of Oregon's most critical tools for attracting and retaining major job-creating investments—especially in advanced manufacturing and the semiconductor industry. As the state works to position itself competitively on the national stage, clarity and efficiency in SIP agreements are essential to our success.

The inclusion of ports as a required party to all SIP agreements—added during the 2023 legislative session through HB 2009—was well-intended but has had unintended consequences. While the Port of Portland is a valued regional partner, its role in land use planning and infrastructure development for SIP-eligible projects in cities like Hillsboro is limited. Requiring port approval in these instances can introduce unnecessary complexity and delays in the process.

HB 2725 with the -2 amendment strikes a thoughtful balance. It preserves current law for ports east of Bonneville Dam, while requiring port participation in SIP agreements when the project is on land owned by the port everywhere else in the state. This is a sensible, targeted fix that acknowledges the diverse governance structures and economic development needs across Oregon.

As a chamber representing a business community deeply engaged in economic development and innovation, we strongly support legislative efforts that streamline processes, eliminate duplicative oversight, and allow for timely investment decisions.

We urge your support for HB 2725 with the -2 amendment and thank you for your continued commitment to strengthening Oregon's economy.

Respectfully yours,  
Deanna Palm  
President & CEO  
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